

The Pocahontas Times.

Vol. XXX No 44

Marlinton, Pocahontas Co., West Virginia, June 6 1912

\$1.00 A Year

THE TOWN OF MARLINTON.

The Greenbrier River is the longest river in the state of West Virginia, and Knapps Creek is its largest tributary. Where Knapps Creek enters the river on one side and Stony Creek on the other an expanse of level bottom land has been formed and on this natural town site is located the town of Marlinton, the county-seat of Pocahontas county.

Pocahontas county is known as the "Pearl of the Alleghenies." It is as a matter of fact the largest county in the State though generally the adjoining county of Randolph is given this place. A line of railroad runs through the center of the county and it is eighty-one miles from the place that the traveler enters the county on the Western Maryland railway to the point at the foot of Droop Mountain where he leaves the county on the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, the two railway systems connecting at the town of Durbin. The county has six incorporated towns with municipal governments, of which Marlinton is the largest and most important town. The county is considered the best grass and the best timber county in the State. It has some two hundred square miles of coal, practically all of it belonging to the New River field, it being the extreme northern end of the great coal deposit. It has also more limestone than any other county and has inexhaustible deposits of the finest marble. It is a good agricultural county and one part of it, known as the Levels, is considered to be the best farming section of West Virginia. The elevation of the county ranges from 2000 to 4800 feet above the sea level, and it has the distinction of being the county of the highest average elevation of any county in the eastern part of the United States. Practically all of the important rivers of Virginia and West Virginia, including the Potomac, James, and Monongahela the real head, or uttermost fountain of the Ohio have their heads in the table land occupied by Pocahontas county. Marlinton as the county-seat of this great county, which has not an acre of waste ground in it, has a sure and substantial future, and it is destined to be one of the important towns of West Virginia.

As the natural crossing place of the Greenbrier River, this place has always occupied an important position. From the numerous mounds and the inexhaustible supply of native tools and arms to be found here it must have been an important center in pre-historic times. The first settler of the Greenbrier Valley, Jacob Marlin, had his cabin here, and from him the place has its name. It was known by the descriptive name of Marlin's Bottom for about one hundred and fifty years, or until 1887, when a northern lady, who had her home here, desired a more euphonious or mellifluous name, and had the postoffice department to change the name to Marlinton, without consulting the older inhabitants, who were much distressed and disturbed by the losing of the old historic name.

In 1861, the place was fortified by General Robert E. Lee on account of its commanding position. This was General Lee's first campaign and his first camp was made on Marlin's Bottom and it was here that he spent the first night under canvas in the Civil War.

In 1891, a railway was projected to cross Greenbrier River at this point to join the B. & O. and the C. & O. systems, and owing to the prospect a town was laid out and in 1891 the people of the county voted to move the county seat from Huntersville to this place. Owing to the hard times which set in about this time the railroad was never built, but a fine court house building was erected and for about ten years the town had the only distinction of being the county-seat with a population of about one hundred. In the fall of 1900, the C. & O. built its Greenbrier Division as far as Marlinton,

and it speaks volumes for the commanding position of the town that though the railroad came north and south instead of east and west, as first intended, it passed through this place.

The town was incorporated in the year 1900 and has had a steady and satisfactory growth since then. About 700 acres was included in the corporate limits and within the lines the census of 1910 showed a population 1086 as compared to 171 in 1900. There are four important suburbs to the town as incorporated, Campbelltown, Riverside, Greenbrier Mill and West Marlinton.

Marlinton within the corporate limits had in 1911 real estate assessed at \$650,029 and personal property \$498,000. It has four printing offices, three newspapers, two banks, five hotels, three insurance agencies, two theaters, three barber shops, one bakery, one bottling works, one tannery, six wood-working plants, four churches, one school, one hospital, twenty wholesale and retail stores, tailor shops, harness shops, blacksmith shops, shoe shops, and restaurants as well as other important industries. It has four resident doctors, two dentists ten lawyers, three ministers, and a number of school teachers, engineers and other professional men.

It has a most excellent system of water works and electric lighting. Its three fire companies (volunteer) have never failed to control the fires that have broken out in the past six years. The town suffered severely from fires before that time.

By the last official statement of the two banks in town issued on April 12, 1912, they showed resources amounting to \$901,723.62.

The town has never had a saloon and for years there has been no complaint as to illegal drug and liquor traffic which is so often the curse of dry towns. We think that this is due in a great measure to the cultivation of a great many healthy amusements.

There is in this town the most complete and up to date bowling and billiard establishment in West Virginia. Something like ten thousand dollars is invested in it and it is fitted up like a good club house for ladies and gentlemen and is much appreciated and well patronized. It is a favorite resort for visitors to the town. The summer climate is the very best in the world and practically all out door sports are well patronized. There is a good golf course, base ball, foot ball and tennis are other games. It is probably the only town in West Virginia that has ever had polo games played in it.

The town is very popular with the people of the county and they as well as the town people are proud of the well built prosperous town. The people are noted for their hospitality and their intelligence and their refinement. And more than all a feeling of good fellowship exists and all are on speaking terms with each other. They have the rare faculty of being able to engage in interesting and heated and electoral controversies and smile when they are over. We are willing to maintain before any disinterested arbitrator that "we have the best town for the size in the United States." And no matter how far a Marlinton man may wander or what marvels he may see, the town looks good to him when he comes back. Longfellow could well have written about our town:

"What land is this? Yon pretty town
Is Marlinton, its wares displayed;
The pride, the market place, the crown
And center of the Lumber trade."

Dead letter list for week ending June 1st.

Hawkins, G. W.
Cards
Beard, Rease 3
Smith, Foster
Unless claimed will be sent to dead letter office June 15.
A. S. Overholt, P. M.

The Pocahontas Times \$1.00 a year.

MEMORIAL DAY.

AN ADDRESS BY REV. A. S. RACHAL.
Memorial Day is one of those growths that are inevitable. Though it began in personal and disconnected efforts, it has grown to the dimensions of one of the foremost of our National ceremonies; and there is always reason for such a phenomenon.

It is not only needed—it is demanded by the facts in the case. It is as inevitable as the awakening of a man when the sun looks over the eastern hills.

It is not in nature for this to be evaded or neglected. Our humanity demands it, and there is nothing to do but obey. It is not alone the illustrious dead that we honor—it is ourselves that are most of all honored in the observance.

On this occasion I am irresistibly reminded of the recent disaster to the steamer Titanic.

It appeared at that disaster, that some 900 people, mostly women, and largely of the steerage, of a class ignorant and often vicious, had been saved, and 1600, mostly men, and many of them men of the highest order of intellect, social standing, moral character—in fact men of the very highest sort, and gone down, and the question at once arose,—why this wanton waste of the best merely to save the lowest and least desirable?

There was Charles M. Hayes, once telegrapher, but then president of the Grand Trunk Railroad; E. T. Stead, scholar of fame and foremost of critical students of current events; Isador Straus, financier and philanthropist; Col. John Jacob Astor, bravest of the brave; reckless in life, and severely criticised, there are none to criticize his death; Major Butt, aide to the president, an officer and a gentleman; F. D. Millet, greatest of present day artists; and many more of that kind.

Surely these men who stood foremost in the world of finance, art, letters, business, were worth hundreds of those who, now they are saved, are saved only to work in the sweatshops or even worse. The Captain, mates and all the passengers who seconded their efforts to the utmost, loaded the weak and ignorant into boats to survive, and then all went down together. Certainly, it can be no means be termed "The survival of the fittest."

Major Butt helped several women into a boat, was even thoughtful enough to bring blankets and tuck around them—then he stepped back, lifted his cap, smiled and died. And why? Who that was saved was worth the half of this? Picture old Isador Straus, standing on the deck in utter calmness, and his aged wife just as calmly electing to die with him rather than live with out him—and why, oh, why was all this manhood and womanhood of the very choicest wasted and worse, that the least fit should live?

Many of those in the boats howled and blasphemed in abject fear—and the band stood on the reeling deck and played "Nearer my God to Thee" till the waiting waters claimed them—And why, oh, why?

But let us paint you another picture.

Some years ago the steamer La Bourgogne had a collision, in the English Channel, I think. The women and children were being gathered at the sides, when the sailors, several hundreds of them, frenzied with fear, fell upon them with knives, cut them to pieces and trampled them under foot—took the boats and lived, to everlasting infamy, it is true, but little they cared for that.

Captain Smith merely called through his megaphone "Be British, my men," and it was enough. And when you compare the two scenes, you will not have far to seek for an answer to the question, why should these die, that a less worthy lot should live.

Or picture to yourself, if you will, the greed of the owners, providing insufficient means of escape and say whether it were better to

West Virginia.

JAMES MCGONAHAN.

1. I will sing of West Virginia, Born in passion, fear, and war;
2. Fair and gracious are her daughters, Brave and faith-ful are her men;
3. Formed by God to save the Nation, He-roes gath-ered in her name;
4. Pledge; on then your every loy-al heart beat to your mother's pain.

On her mountain tops I linger Where the birds of free-dom are.
People of the Western Waters, Dwellers of the hill and glen.
Why by war and des-o-lation She is grudged her niche in fame.
Sounding fear-ful by the lau-rel, Beet-ling crag and flower-y plain.

Chorus:
Sing, oh! sing of West Vir-gin-ia, Mountain,
Sing, oh! sing of West Vir-gin-ia, Sing, oh! sing of West Vir-gin-ia, Mountain,
river, rock and tree, rock and tree, Men of brain, and brawn and
river, rock and tree, Mountain river rock and tree, Men of brain, and brawn and snow, Men of
sin-aw, Mountaineers are al-ways free, are al-ways free.

brain, and brawn and snow, Mountaineers are always free, are always free.

We print this week the music of a poem which was printed last winter in this paper dedicated to the good name of West Virginia. There is very little to admire in the words beyond the fact that they are true and go with the swing of this grand piece of music.

The idea came from hearing some of the alumni of the University of Virginia singing a chorus to the foot ball team of that great University. That chorus was:

We will sing of Old Virginia,
And her team so tried and true;
We will sing of Old Virginia,
And her colors of Orange and Blue.

Being considerably impressed with the rymth and volume of the sound, we adapted it to West Virginia and in a few minutes had forged out four verses and a chorus, and the following week printed them in the Pocahontas Times with the most abject apology, distinctly stating that the purpose was to use this fine music for a state song, and asked that it be rendered by a brass band or sung indistinctly. So much adverse criticism followed that we have had to change the third verse entirely, and tone it down.

We would like to call your attention to the fact that the nation-

al song, "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord," was suggested by the soldiers singing, "Hang John Brown on a sour apple tree." This is not claimed to be a parallel case, but what might have happened if a sure enough poet had been in that Pullman and heard those University men singing the foot-ball song of years ago. They were old enough to keep quiet too, but its a poor heart which never rejoices.

Having gotten our foot into it, editorially or feet musically speaking, the only way to make good was to get permission to print the music and as it was copyrighted, we had one trying time to get hold of it. The owner was in Europe and he finally got home and let us use it, but rather insisted that the words be copy-righted also, and that is the reason that copyright notice appears above, but is it necessary to say that anyone is welcome to use the song?

We think that Bill Nye's dedication is in order:
"Go little ballad go,
Bearing an honored name;
And everywhere that you have went,
They're glad that you have came."

be an owner living or a passenger dead. It is never necessary that a man should live—it is often necessary that he should die. Because the one necessity of all necessities is, that every man should show forth the best that is in him—and often does it come to pass that only in dying can this be done.

Just after the disaster to the Titanic, a reporter was watching a lifeboat drill on a German liner. First mate, second mate, and each officer in turn lowered his boat, filled it with people and rowed away, till all were gone—every boat occupied—and the captain stood alone on the deck. Then the reporter was interested and asked, "But where is the captain's boat?" And an officer answered, "There is no life boat for the captain." The ship was his, to save if he could, to go down with if he failed.

So Captain Smith made no motion toward saving himself—he was part of the ship. But there is one thing yet to be noticed. The captain had taken charge with his eyes open, accepting all the alternatives. The passengers had not, and yet they accepted what was forced into their hands just as readily as though they had been reared to this fate from the beginning. And therein lay the victory of it all.

STONY CREEK

It is getting very dry here. The health of the people of this community is very good at this time.

John Gay and Rudolph Waugh, of Warwick, were business visitors here last week.

J. D. Barlow and wife were visiting at W. G. Cochran's Sunday.

Wallace Dillel lost a valuable mare last week.

Miss Flossie Galford, of Laurel Creek, was a visitor at Conley Cobbs last week.

R. W. Hill, Jr., attended the Woodman Memorial Service at Marlinton Sunday.

Neal Baxter and wife, M. E. Woofler and family were business visitors in Marlinton Monday.

Rev. Ira F. Rickett is holding a very interesting and profitable revival meeting on Laurel Creek at this time.

Mrs. Annie Hill and children were visiting George Rorke's family Sunday.

RETURNS AFTER MANY YEARS.

Lieutenant J. Woods Price, of Marlinton, W. Va., is an interesting visitor in Lexington this week, stopping at the Central Hotel on his return home from the Confederate Reunion at Macon, Georgia. While here he is renewing old acquaintances and reviewing scenes of his student days at old Washington College, from which he graduated in the spring of 1861 with the degree of A. B., second in his class.

Lieutenant Price won one of the Robinson medals his graduation year, but for some reason it was not conferred, and he has made application to Washington and Lee for the same.

Lieutenant Price served through the Civil War as a brave Confederate soldier. He was second lieutenant in Captain W. L. McNeel's company of the 19th Virginia Cavalry.

This is his first visit here since the unveiling of the recumbent statue of General Lee. He is 76 years of age.—Lexington Gazette.

PROGRAM

Pocahontas County Sunday School Convention.

(Interdenominational)
Cass, W. Va., June 21, 22, 1912.
FIRST DAY, 2:00 P. M.

Gospel Hymns, Song Service led by Convention Song Leader O. G. Arbogast.

Prayer. Asking that the convention Theme may be actualized in the Convention and field. Led by H. Blackhurst.

Address of Welcome B. B. Williams.

Response, by the President.

Experience Meeting. Delegates will each give a plan that has helped the home school, led by Rev. J. H. Bean.

Devotional Bible Study, Workers together with God, Arthur T. Arnold, General Secretary.

The Adult Class. (two speakers) (a) Why Organize? (10 minutes) Rev. C. A. Buchanan (b) Service the Class may Render (10 minutes) G. D. McNeil.

Fellowship Meeting; Everybody get acquainted. Registration of delegates and assignment of homes.

NIGHT SESSION 7:30
Songs of Victory Led by Pearl Arbogast.

Child Study, Miss Martha V. Graham, State Elementary Superintendent.

Thank Offering for State Association.

What shall the Harvest be? A. T. Arnold.

Appointment of Committee.

SECOND DAY: 9:30 A. M.
Devotional Service led by Rev. D. S. Boggs.

The Country Sunday School, A. T. Arnold.

Why the International Lesson Committee Issued the Graded Lessons, Miss Martha V. Graham.

The Home Department (three speakers) (a) How it Helps the Home (10 minutes) Rev. I. F. Rickett, (b) How it Helps the School, (10 minutes) Rev. Summers, (c) How to start it and make it go, Mrs. Harry Moore.

How to Secure Trained Workers, Rev. S. R. Neel.

Calling roll and Reports from Sunday Schools.

AFTERNOON: 1:30
Songs of Truth, led by S. B. Moore.

The Kingdom Vision, Miss Martha V. Graham.

Report of committee.

County Conference with reports from (a) County officers, (b) District officers, (c) Division and Department officers, (c) Invited Guests, led by General Secretary.

The Teacher. How I prepare my Lesson (15 minutes) J. B. Grimes.

The Superintendent (Two Speakers) (a) His Week Day Work (10 minutes) Rev. H. Q. Burr, (b) Before the School (10 minutes) J. C. Harper.

Report from Schools.

NIGHT SESSION: 7:30
Song Service.
Report of the Great Wheeling Convention, by Rev. George P. Moore.

The Sunday School and Ratification, Mr. A. T. Arnold.